

8 executing a template program specific to the user using the real-time
9 information stored in the storage device as input to the template program to generate the
10 customized page, wherein the template program indicates items of interest to the user;
11 and

12 providing the user with the customized page, wherein the customized page
13 includes at least one item of real-time information selected from the storage device.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further including prior to the step of
2 receiving the user request the steps of caching the template program in a storage location
3 local to the page server.

1 12. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of receiving
2 user preferences for the user, wherein the user preferences indicate the items of interest to
3 the user, and combining the user preferences with a generic template to form the template
4 program specific to the user.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further including the step of providing the
2 template program specific to the user to the page server.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the page server performs the step
2 of combining the user preferences with the generic template.

1 15. The method of claim 10, wherein the real-time information
2 comprises stock quotes, sports scores and news headlines.

1 16. The method of claim 10, further comprising a step of generating a
2 default user configuration for the user based on demographic information of the user.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of generating a default
2 user configuration comprises the steps of:

3 determining a default list of cities for a weather report based on user
4 demographic information; and

5 determining one or more sports teams for sports reporting based on user
6 demographic information.

1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the steps of determining
2 comprise the steps of:
3 obtaining user postal code information;
4 translating the postal code information to user geographic position;
5 comparing the user geographic position to geographic positions assigned
6 to each city and sports team; and
7 determining a threshold distance from the user geographic position which
8 is greater than or equal to a distance to a predetermined nonzero number of cities and a
9 predetermined nonzero number of sports team geographic positions.

1 19. (Amended) Using a page server, a method of providing real-time
2 responses to user requests from a plurality of users for customized pages, the
3 method comprising the steps of:
4 obtaining user preferences for the plurality of users, wherein a user's user
5 preferences indicate items of interest to that user;
6 obtaining real-time information from information sources;
7 storing the real-time information in a storage device;
8 for each of the plurality of users, combining the user preferences for a
9 specific user and a template to form a template program specific to the user at the page
10 server;
11 receiving, from a user at the page server, a user request for a customized
12 page customized according to the user preferences;
13 executing the template program specific to the user using the real-time
14 information stored in the storage device as input to the template program to generate the
15 customized page at the page server; and
16 providing the user with the customized page, wherein the steps of
17 executing and providing are performed in real-time response to receipt of the user request

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18 in the step of receiving and wherein the customized page includes at least one item of
19 real-time information selected from the storage device.